

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-12 and 16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 9 and 16 are independent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An image processing apparatus comprising:

a detecting part which detects, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

a pattern generating part which generates a ~~control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which two dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting part~~ two dimensional pattern according to the detection made by said detecting part, the pattern spreading two-dimensionally from a center of the detected high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and having suppression characteristics that a suppression level is reduced from the high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the high-luminance portion;

a separating part which separates a color signal from the image signal; and

a suppression part which suppresses the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction on the image by the ~~control signal~~ two dimensional pattern.

2 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first storage part which stores an output from said detecting part, wherein said generating part generates the ~~control signal in dependence upon~~ two dimensional pattern according to an output from said first storage part; and

a second storage part which stores this ~~control signal~~ pattern, wherein said suppression part suppresses the color signal using the ~~control signal~~ pattern read out of said second storage part.

3 (PRESENTLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by image sensing part, and said detecting part detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~control signal~~ two dimensional pattern has ~~a waveform for obtaining a~~ the suppression characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

5 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An image processing method comprising:

detecting, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

generating a ~~control signal, which has a prescribed waveform which two-dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a suppression is reduced~~

~~from the detected high-luminance portion toward the periphery of the detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting~~ two dimensional pattern according to the detection made in said detecting processing, the pattern spreading two-dimensionally from a center of the detected high-luminance portion to the periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and having suppression characteristics that a suppression level is reduced from the high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the high-luminance portion;

separating a color signal from the image signal; and

suppressing the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction on the image by the ~~control-signal~~ two dimensional pattern.

6 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

first storing the detected high-luminance portion, wherein said generating step generates the ~~control-signal~~ two dimensional pattern in dependence upon this stored high-luminance portion; and

second storing this ~~control-signal~~ two dimensional pattern, wherein said suppression step suppresses the color signal upon reading out the stored ~~control-signal~~ two dimensional pattern.

7 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 5, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by an image sensing part, and said detecting step detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

8 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The method according to claim 5, wherein the ~~control~~
~~signal has a waveform for obtaining a~~ two dimensional pattern has the suppression characteristic
in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is
reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is
eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

9 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for
executing:

detection processing for detecting, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance
portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

generation processing for generating a ~~control signal, which has a prescribed~~
~~waveform which two dimensionally spreads from a center of the high-luminance portion to the~~
~~periphery in both a horizontal and a vertical direction and is defined in such a way that a~~
~~suppression is reduced from the detected high-luminance portion toward a periphery of the~~
~~detected high-luminance portion, in dependence upon the detection made by said detecting~~
~~processing~~ two dimensional pattern according to the detection in said detection processing, the
pattern spreading two-dimensionally from a center of the detected high-luminance portion to the
periphery in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and having suppression
characteristics that a suppression level is reduced from the high-luminance portion toward a
periphery of the high-luminance portion;

separation processing for separating a color signal from the image signal; and

suppression processing for suppressing the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion to both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction on the image by the ~~control signal~~ two dimensional pattern.

10 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The storage medium according to claim 9, said storage medium further storing:

a program for executing processing for storing the detected high-luminance portion, wherein said generating processing generates the ~~control signal in dependence upon this stored high luminance portion~~ two dimensional pattern according to the detection made in said detecting processing; and

a program for executing processing for storing this ~~control signal~~ two dimensional pattern, wherein said suppression processing suppresses the color signal upon reading out the stored ~~control signal~~ two dimensional pattern.

11 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by an image sensing part, and said detecting processing detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

12 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the ~~control signal has a waveform for obtaining a~~ two dimensional pattern has the suppression characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

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13-16 (CANCELLED).